



Pony Express riders kept abreast of the telegraph line construction and carried mail to the crews. Completion of the telegraph line spelled the doom of the express rider.

Along the 1,966 miles from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento were 190 relay stations 10 to 15 miles apart where riders could change horses. Home stations, where another rider took over were from 45 to 85 miles apart. A rider, leaving Salt Lake City would change horses at five way stations—Travelers Rest, Rockwell, Joe Dougout's, Camp Floyd, the Pass—and then find a relief rider at the home station in Rush Valley—a journey of 75 miles at break-neck speed. Across Utah the route followed south of the Great Salt Lake and around the south edge of the salt flats to Ibapah, near the Nevada border.

Pony Express commemorative markers are found along this route at these and such other sites as Lookout, Simpson Springs, River Bed, Dugway, Black Rock, Fish Springs, Boyds,

Willow Springs, Canyon Station, Deep Creek and on into Nevada.

The first "extras" published by the enterprising *Deseret News* editors, carried news brought into the valley by the Pony Express, and were called the "*Pony Dispatch*."

Though it produced many tales of heroism during its short life, the Pony Express went out of business in about 16 months. Even before it started, Congress had set its termination date. It could last only until connecting of the transcontinental telegraph line. And even as the riders raced along, telegraph poles were being "planted" along the same route. Indeed, the riders often carried mail to and from the line camps.

The Pony Express made its last ride about the

The telegraph office on Salt Lake's Main Street where the east and west lines were joined October 18, 1861. Here Brigham Young sent the first message telling the nation "Utah has not seceded but is firm for the Constitution . . ."

